

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

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1. (Currently Amended): Reader (10) of chip card (50, 51, 53, 55) comprising:
- a central processing unit (20) comprising means (MP2, MEM2, PG20, 23) for emitting and receiving, on a communication bus (60), binary messages having a first format determined by a communication protocol (ISO 7816) for contact chip card,
 - a card receiving device (40) comprising a contact card connector (42) connected to the central processing unit (20) by means of the communication bus (60), and
 - a contactless read head (30) for contactless chip card (53), comprising:
 - means for receiving or sending, from or to a contactless chip card, messages having a second format determined by a communication protocol for contactless chip cards,
 - a serial interface (31), characterized in that:
 - the serial interface (31) of the contactless read head (30) that is directly connected at least to a data wire (I/O) of the of said communication bus (60) that carries binary messages having the first format determined by a communication protocol for contact chip card,
 - means for converting messages received on the serial interface and having the first format into messages having the second format, and, vice versa, converting messages received from a contactless chip card and having the second format into messages having the first format applied on the serial interface, and
 - the contactless read head (30) is arranged in a hardware and software way so as not to arranged so that the contactless read head does not respond to a contact chip card activation command received on the serial interface (31), and to respond responds to a specific activation command (ACTIV) of the contactless read head different from a contact chip card activation command.

32
2. (Currently Amended): Reader according to claim 1, wherein the contactless read head (30) is further electrically supplied by a supply wire (~~V_{cc}~~) of the communication bus (60).

2
3. (Currently Amended): Reader according to claim 1, wherein the contactless read head (30) comprises means (~~MP1, PG39~~) for being set into an inhibition state at its power-on, and for leaving the inhibition state when receiving said specific activation command (~~ACTIV~~).

4. (Currently Amended): Reader according to claim 3, wherein the central processing unit (20) comprises means (~~MP2, PG20~~) for performing the following operations when receiving a detection signal (DET) of the presence of a card in the reader:

- sending, on the communication bus (60), a contact card activation command, and waiting for a first response,
- if the first response is received, establishing or trying to establish a communication with a contact card,
- if the first response is not received in a predetermined time interval, sending said specific activation command (~~ACTIV~~) of the contactless read head on the communication bus (60), and waiting for a second response,
- if the second response is received, establishing or trying to establish a communication with a contactless card.

5. (Currently Amended): Reader according to ~~claim 1~~ **claim 4**, wherein said contact card activation command is a reset command according to the standard ISO 7816.

6. (Currently Amended): Reader according to claim 1, wherein said specific activation command (~~ACTIV~~) of the read head is a command which is likely to be never sent to a contact chip card.

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7. (Currently Amended): Reader according to claim 1, wherein said specific activation command (ACTIV) of the read head is a signal sent on at least one wire of the communication bus (60) which is not used by contact chip cards.

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8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended): Reader according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ in which the contactless read head (30) is integrated in a small size circuit arranged close to or inside the card-receiving device (40).

10. (Currently Amended): Read head (30) for contactless chip card, comprising:
- means for receiving or sending, from or to a contactless chip card, messages having a second format determined by a communication protocol for contactless chip card,

- a serial interface (31) for receiving or emitting messages with a first format determined by a communication protocol for contact chip card (ISO 7816), ~~characterized in that it comprises~~

- means for converting messages received on the serial interface and having the first format into messages having the second format, and, vice versa, converting messages received from a contactless chip card and having the second format into messages having the first format applied on the serial interface, and

means (MP1, PG39) for being set into an inhibition state at its power-on, and for leaving the inhibition state when receiving on the serial interface a specific activation command (ACTIV) ~~received on the serial interface (31)~~ that is different from a contact chip card activation command.

11. (Currently Amended): Read head according to claim 10, wherein the inhibition state is so that the read head does not respond to any command except to said activation command (ACTIV) of the read head.

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12. (Currently Amended): Read head according to claim 10, wherein the inhibition state is so that that the read head does not respond to any command except to said activation command (~~ACTIV~~) of the read head or a chip card activation command (~~RST~~).

13. (Currently Amended) Read head according to ~~claim 1~~ **claim 10**, characterized ~~in that it comprises~~ **comprising** means for returning to the inhibition state when receiving a deactivation command (~~DEACTIV~~) received on the serial interface.

14. (Cancelled)
